August 25, 2014  
Honors Humanities

**Our Beginning**

**"The beginning seems to be more than half the whole"**

- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics 1.7*, *ca.* 350 BC

As Aristotle observes, beginnings matter. Here we go. You'll be doing some researching, thinking, and writing about the quotation below tonight. **First**, circle or underline what you believe to be the important words, *ie* the words that drive the quotation and give it power and life. **Second**, paraphrase the quotation. This means put it in your own words, a task more difficult than most people realize. Attempt to keep the length of your paraphrase to one sentence. **Third**, write about what you think the quotation means. This means putting flesh onto the bones of your paraphrase. A helpful way to do this is to look at the words you circled and unpack their significance (to start this process, you might ask yourself "what's the opposite of this word?" or "what images does this word bring to mind?"). Your writing should be of a healthy length (at least ½ page). **Finally**, find out who said the quotation and when (roughly). If you're so inclined, you might also try to discover the quotation's context (who the speaker was speaking to, where he was, and why). You may write on the front of this page, the back of this page, a separate sheet, or you may type your response.

**"The unexamined life is not worth living for a human being."**

**- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**who? when?**